Daily Report

Latin America

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Events Relating to Israeli Arms Shipment Issue

Israeli Letter Sheds New Light

FL2404234190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2308 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 24, CANA—A letter from Israel has now shed new light on Antigua and Barbuda's involvement in an arms shipment that ended up on the estate of a leading Colombian drugs dealer.

The letter, sent to the Antigua and Barbuda Government by Israel on Monday [23 April], has influenced Prime Minister Vere Bird into going ahead on Wednesday [25 April] with a Cabinet meeting he had originally cancelled because of a planned boycott by some of his ministers. The special Cabinet session, called to deal specifically with the illegal arms shipment controversy, will take place as demands for a judicial probe into the arms shipment affair widens.

The Antigua Christian Council and the private sector organisation came out on Tuesday [24 April] in support of a judicial inquiry, a demand originally made by the prime minister's son and foreign minister, Lester Bird.

Officials told CANA that Israel's diplomatic note, sent through its embassy in the Dominican Republic, claims that its government is in possession of a letter from the Antiguan Government dated November 9, 1988, in which the assurance was given that the arms being purchased will not be sold or given to any third party for use. According to the note, the Israeli authorities are most disturbed to have learnt from Colombia that a supply of the arms shipped to Antigua, as requested by a Cabinet minister named in the letter, was discovered on the property of a Colombian drug trafficker.

Foreign Minister Lester Bird, who initiated preliminary inquiries into the matter, following the Colombian protest note, maintains that a "prima facie" case exists for a full-scale judicial inquiry.

Before the arrival of the letter from Israel, Prime Minister Bird had cancelled arrangements for Wednesday's regular meeting of the Cabinet from which a number of his ministers had planned to stay away. The government explained that the Cabinet meeting will deal with "new and sensitive information" it had just received on the arms shipment controversy, but declined to be more specific.

The private sector organisation, grouping a wide cross-section of business interests, has warned of the "irreparable damage" that could be done to the country's tourism-based economy unless prompt and positive action is taken to effectively probe the arms affair. And speaking for the Antigua Christian Council, the Rev. Neville Brodie, whose home was recently firebombed by unknown persons, has urged Prime Minister Bird to proceed without any further delay in giving permission for a judicial inquiry in the country's national interest.

NATION Supports Public Inquiry

FL2504175190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 25, CANA—Barbados' NATION newspaper on Wednesday [25 April] backed a call for a public judicial enquiry into a 1989 shipment of arms from Israel to Antigua which ended up in the possession of drug dealers in Colombia.

"...If the police, for whatever reasons, have been unable to effectively deal with the matter in spite of all the documents made available to them, then it seems a most reasonable request to have the public judicial inquiry as proposed by the foreign minister," the NATION said.

In an editorial, the paper said the controversy over the shipment necessitates that the Antigua and Barbuda Government ensure there is no cover-up.

"...In controversies of this nature, justice must not only be done but, from the public's perception, must be seen to have been done," the paper asserted.

Colombia said that arms sent from Israel to Antigua and Barbuda last April had been found on the property of drug dealers. The Israeli Government, meanwhile, said the arms had been sold to the Antigua and Barbuda Government, but the government in St. John's denied ordering them.

The NATION said Prime Minister Vere Bird must also deal with the conflicting positions of his two sons in Cabinet on the issue. Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird who has initiated the call for the public enquiry has been boycotting the regular Cabinet sessions until his father, the prime minister, agrees to his request. His brother, National Security Adviser Vere Bird Jr., has publicly denied ordering the arms, though Lester Bird said the Israelis had implicated him in the shipment.

The NATION said whatever decision the prime minister takes cannot please the two brothers, but noted that the government has acknowledged that "irregularities and breaches of our customs regulations" did occur in the matter. The paper has also questioned the role of the law enforcement agencies particularly the police which it said "have been rather silent."

Israelis Implicate Vere Bird Jr.

FL2504183290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1801 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 25, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's deputy prime minister, Lester Bird, said on Wednesday [25 April] the Israeli Government had identified his brother, Vere Jr., as the person who ordered a controversial shipment of arms which was later found in the possession of drug dealers in Colombia last year. However, Vere Bird Jr., the national security

advisor, had earlier denied involvement in the arms deal, which the Antigua and Barbuda Government said it had not sanctioned.

In a statement to the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), Lester Bird, who is also the foreign minister, said he had received a diplomatic note from the Israeli Government implicating his brother, who holds the communications and public works portfolio as well.

"The arms delivered to Antigua were ordered by the Hon. Vere. C. Bird Jr., minister national security of the government of Antigua and Barbuda," Lester Bird quoted the Israeli Government as saying.

"In his purchase letter dated November 9, 1988, the Hon. Vere C. Bird (Jr.) indicated explicitly that the arms "are contemplated to be used by the Antigua Forces and will not be passed, sold or given to (the) use (of) any third party." Lester Bird said he had shown the diplomatic note to Prime Minister Vere Bird, his father, on Tuesday [24 April].

The foreign minister is pressing for a public judicial inquiry into last April's arms shipment, with anyone implicated in it to be suspended immediately.

"Two governments—the governments of Colombia and Israel—have now identified persons involved in ordering the arms. In the circumstances, it is clearly necessary that all such persons be removed immediately from public office and that a judicial inquiry be held," the foreign minister said. He asserted that a judicial inquiry will provide "the affected persons" with "the opportunity to defend themselves".

"The point is that the government of Antigua and Barbuda cannot ignore the seriousness of claims made by the two governments. Our government therefore must behave responsibly," he said.

He reported that the Israeli Government has also asked for "an investigation to be conducted expeditiously." Lester Bird said the Antigua and Barbuda Government should also seek to "secure from Israel the original documents ordering the arms." He plans sending Lawrence Barcella Jr. an American lawyer/investigator to Israel to secure such documents. This should in no way delay the suspension from office of all those involved, nor should it delay the establishment of the judicial inquiry, he said.

Government officials here said the arms arrived in Antigua last April on a ship and were soon transferred to another for Colombia.

Inquiry Set Up, Vere Jr. Takes Leave

FL2504235490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 25, CANA—Prime Minister Vere Bird Snr. on Wednesday [25 April] decided to set up a judicial inquiry to probe how a controversial shipment of arms from Israel that transited Antigua a year ago ended up in the hands of Colombian drug dealers. At the same time his son Vere Jr., who has been named in documents on the arms deal but has maintained his innocence, has asked to be relieved of ministerial responsibilities until the matter has been resolved.

"I have informed the governor general of the decision by the Cabinet supporting the setting up of a judicial inquiry," the prime minister said after a specially convened session of the Cabinet. A second son, Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird who just over a week ago broke the news about the April 1989 illegal shipment, had been pressing for a public judicial inquiry and the suspension of government officials implicated in the shipment of arms the Cabinet said it did not sanction. "...I have accepted the request of Vere Bird granting him leave from his ministerial duties until this matter has been resolved and I have so informed the governor general," the prime minister stated.

In a quick response, Lester Bird said he hoped Vere Jr. would not serve as a minister unless cleared of culpability in the arms shipment. Vere Jr. is minister of communications and works and national security advisor. "I and other members of Cabinet interpreted the prime minister's statement to mean that Vere Bird Jr. is not now, and will not serve as, a minister of government, nor will he attend Cabinet meetings unless he is absolved of culpability in the arms shipment by the judicial inquiry," said Lester Bird in a statement.

The Colombians had complained that the arms ended up in the hands of drug dealers. The government here said that it did not ship arms to Colombia, in fact had never ordered arms. The Israeli Government, however, said the arms had been consigned to the government, to Vere Bird Jr. in particular, according to a diplomatic note Lester Bird said he had received from the Israeli ambassador to Antigua. "...At present, we have a report from ... The very Israeli Government from whom the arms were bought giving us a clear indication how the goods were ordered, what time they left Israel, when they arrived in Antigua and what not," the prime minister reported.

He said now that the report had come in, "the Cabinet and I felt that we have enough and decided at today's Cabinet meeting that something had to be done." He said the Cabinet accepted a request from Vere Bird Jr., "who has been implicated as having bought the arms by both the Israeli and Colombian governments" for time off from his ministerial duties until the matter has been resolved. Cabinet secretary Lounel Stevens read the note from the Israeli embassy in the Dominican Republic which claimed Vere Jr. ordered the weapons.

"In his purchase letter dated November 9th, 1988, the Honourable Vere Bird Jr. indicated explicitly that the arms are contemplated to be used by the Antigua and Barbuda forces and will not be passed, sold, or given for use to any third party," he quoted the Israelis as saying.

Naval Conference Analyzes Soviet Naval Power

PY2504192090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0540 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Santiago, 24 Apr (EFE)—The commanders in chief of the Navies of 15 countries of the Americas, who are attending the 15th Inter-American Naval Conference, today analyzed the growing power of the Soviet military fleet and the coordination of efforts to control maritime drug trafficking.

The conference opened on 23 April in Valparaiso, 125 km northwest of Santiago. It is being attended by the Argentine, Bolivian, Brazilian, Canadian, Colombian, Ecuadoran, Salvadoran, U.S., Guatemalan, Honduran, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, and Chilean Navy commanders in chief.

In his speech, Chilean Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch stressed the fact that "Soviet military power continues to grow."

He added that "the fact that the permanent political objective of the USSR is to dominate the world cannot be ignored."

Sources of the conference said that the commanders, who will meet until 27 April, will analyze issues like the technological development of navies and the role of naval forces in antidrug operations. This issue will be raised at the conference by the U.S. delegation.

Simmonds To Attend Caribbean Economic Meeting

FL2504172490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 25, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds is in Washington to attend the 10th meeting of Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development [CGCED]. [Word indistinct] team includes Financial Secretary Wendell Lawrence, Development Minister Hugh Heyliger, and his permanent secretary Eugene Petty. The CGCED meeting will review the work of the Caribbean Group since June 1988.

The St. Kitts and Nevis country meeting, as well as a meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries were scheduled for Wednesday [25 April].

While in the U.S. capital, Prime Minister Simmonds hopes to meet with St. Kitts and Nevis nationals residing there, to update them on recent developments at home, the goverment information office here said.

Cuba

Vice President Almeida Tours Island of Zanzibar

FL2504180090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Cuban Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque toured the island of Zanzibar and met with Zanzibar President Idris Wakil as part of his official visit to Tanzania. Almeida Bosque, also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and a commander of the revolution, was met at the Zanzibar airport by Minister of State for the Presidency Idi Pandu Hassan and other ministers. During the meeting between Almeida and Wakil, who is also the vice president of Tanzania, they discussed aspects of the efforts of Cuba and Zanzibar to benefit their respective peoples.

Accompanied by acting Tanzanian Foreign Minister Paul Bomani, the Cuban leader visited the reforestation plan in (Maonda), where they planted trees. The Cuban delegation also visited a sugar complex, now being repaired, which has a production capacity of 6,000 tons of sugar and 30,000 cases of drinks.

Upon his return to the capital of Tanzania, Dar Es Salaam, Juan Almeida and his delegation toured the monument to the Afro-Shirazi Party and prepared to participate in the celebrations tomorrow of the 26th anniversary of the union between Zanzibar and Tanganyika, which gave rise to what is now Tanzania. Almeida's official visit to this country is the third stage of his trip to African countries which began on 16 April in Zimbabwe and continued in Zambia.

Meets Tanzanian Prime Minister

FL2504233490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Juan Almeida Bosque, Cuban vice president; and Joseph Warioba, first vice president and prime minister of Tanzania, met today in Dar es Salaam. The two leaders exchanged views on the international situation and bilateral relations. Almeida conveyed to Warioba friendly greetings from the Government and Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and he said that Tanzania is a bulwark in the struggle for African liberation.

The member of the PCC Politburo arrived in the Tanzanian capital on Monday [23 April] on the third stage of a tour of several African countries, including Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Rosales del Toro Visits Panmunjom in DPRK

FL2604003990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 25 Apr 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] A high-level Cuban delegation presided over by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro today visited Panmunjom. We would like to explain to the large audience of Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo" program that the military demarcation line that artificially divides the Korean peninsula passes through this location. The chief of the general staff and first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba was received in Panmunjom by General Choe Hyon, lieutenant general and senior member of the [word indistinct] commission.

The Cuban military delegation and their Korean hosts observed the armored wall precisely constructed by South Korean forces which divides the peninsula. Rosales del Toro, who is also a member of the Communist Party of Cuba, reiterated Cuba's support for Kim Il-song's proposal to destroy the wall and begin reunification.

The military chief wrote in the Panmunjom guest book: This place where the Korean People's Army defends its territory and fights for its reunification reminds us of Guantanamo where the same Yankee enemy tramples our land, but one day soon, both our peoples will expel the aggressor.

Escalona Receives Honduran Parliamentarians

FL2504185990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has met in Havana with a Honduran congressional delegation headed by Teofilo Martel, first Honduran Congress vice president. The Honduran delegation comprises another 10 parliamentarians.

During the meeting, Escalona briefed the visitors on the history of our revolution and the development of important fields such as the health and education sectors, among others. Similarly, Escalona talked about the way in which the people's government bodies function, including the rank and file organizations and the ANPP.

Escalona reasserted Cuba's position in defense of international solidarity among the peoples, and especially of Latin American unity.

Teofilo Martel, head of the Honduran delegation, described the meeting between Honduran and Cuban parliamentarians as very fruitful. The Honduran deputies expressed special interest about the way in which the Cuban education system operates, the laws that regulate our Constitution, and other issues.

Honduras, which has an area of 102,088 sq km, is the second largest country in Central America. According to official data, there are about 4.3 million Hondurans, half of whom live in poverty.

Gross Social Product Increases 1 Percent

FL2504180490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] According to a report issued by the State Statistics Committee, the Cuban Gross Social Product has grown by one percent compared to the one registered last year.

Our Gross Social Product increased this year despite the strong negative effects caused by the lack of availability of foreign exchange, the lack of supplies coming from some East European countries, serious agricultural problems, and problems related to economic efficiency.

The increased investment of over 280 million pesos in the construction field has been a determining factor in the development of our country's social economy. The newly built hospitals will benefit over 46,000 people and the new education centers will increase the education capability for over 7,000 students.

Soviet Ship Returns From Angola With Weapons

FL2504204690 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chief of the Eastern Army, has welcomed the Cuban military mission returning on the Soviet ship, Skulptor Konenkov, and the 11 internationalist combatants that fulfilled their tasks in Angola. On its eighth trip to Cuba, the ship arrived at the Santiago de Cuba port with weapons and military technology in complete combat readiness.

Haiti

More on 'Popular' Call for 26 Apr Demonstration

FL2504194890 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The Committee for the Unity of the Popular Forces [Komite pou Inite Fos Popile yo], which is made up of some 10 popular organizations, is planning to hold a peaceful popular demonstration tomorrow, 26 April, to get the nation's leaders to respond favorably to the Haitian people's demands—such as that they lower the cost of living, which is too high, and bring to trial all the people guilty of certain criminal acts in Haiti. The committee also protests insecurity and unemployment, and demands proper security.

According to the press release from several popular organizations gathered into Unity of the Popular Forces [name as heard], this peaceful demonstration will begin in front of Saint Jean Bosco Church in Portail Saint-Joseph at 1000. [passage omitted]

Justice Ministry Announces CEP Appointments

FL2504170790 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French 24 Apr 90 No 29,937 pp 2, 3

[From the "Haiti and Today's World" column]

[Text] The Ministry of Justice has announced that four members of the new CEP [electoral council] have been officially designated. They are: Ernst Mirville (AJH) [Haitian Journalists Association], Philippe Jules (cooperatives), Jean Francis Merizier (unions), and Emmanuel Ambroise (human rights).

Jamaica

Venezuelan Agreement To Expand Refinery Capacity

FL2504145590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1357 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 25, CANA—PetroJam, the Jamaican national oil refinery, is to expand its processing capacity from 36,000 to 50,000 barrels of crude daily through a technical agreement signed with Lagoven S.A. Venezuela's largest refinery.

A statement from the company said that the technical assistance programme would boost Jamaica's annual foreign exchange earnings by U.S. 20 million dollars. The company also announced that it will be carrying out a feasibility study to determine the possibility of increasing PetroJam's refining capacity to 100,000 barrels of crude a day.

A top-level delegation from Lagoven visited Jamaica on April 20 and held talks with Jamaica's Mining and Energy Minister Hugh Small. They also toured the PetroJam facilities. The Lagoven delegation's visit was the result of discussions last October between a Jamaican mission to Venezuela and that country's minister of mining. Jamaica and Venezuela entered into a five year agreement under which Jamaica now receives more crude oil and technical cooperation for implementing projects in the petroleum industry.

Jamaica exports some of the by-products of crude oil it refines in the form of marine diesel, auto diesel, and fuel oil to the American market. PetroJam, the island's sole refinery, also supplies Belize with fuel and other derivatives as Belize does not have its own refining facilities.

Senate Condemns Alvarez' 'Illegal Detention'

PA2504174690 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Apr 90 p 1, 5

[Text] The Mexican Senate on 19 April condemned the events leading to the illegal detention of Mexican citizen Humberto Alvarez Machain in Mexican territory and his subsequent transfer to the United States. The two parties represented in the Senate stated that the action violated the most basic principles of international law.

In its regular session, the Senate unanimously passed a statement indicating that the action violated the various cooperation treaties that the Mexican Government, with the approval of the Senate, have signed with the U.S. Government.

The senators reiterated that the Mexican authorities have sole power to fight all crimes, including drug trafficking, which are committed on national territory.

The illegal detention of Alvarez Machain, and his also illegal transfer and presentation to U.S. authorities, are actions that the Mexican Senate vigorously rejects, the statement added.

The document listed the treaties that have been violated by these actions: the Treaty of Cooperation Between Mexico and the United States on Mutual Legal Assistance, signed on 9 December 1987 and approved by the Mexican Senate on 29 December 1987; and the Treaty on Cooperation To Fight Drug Trafficking and Drug Dependence, signed on 23 February 1989 and approved by the Mexican Senate on 30 November 1989.

Another point in the statement indicated that, without prejudging the legal responsibility of Mexican citizen Alvarez Machain, the senators demand unequivocal respect for the country's sovereignty and compliance with the treaties in force between Mexico and the United States.

Senator Humberto Lugo Gil, president of the second section of the Foreign Relations Commission, read the protest. Asking the Senate to approve it, he said the protest was based on the fulfillment of one of the traditional principles of Mexico's foreign policy: nonintervention.

PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo took the podium to stress that the reason for the senators' protest was a clear case of violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a state, specifically, of Mexico. He added that the aggravating legal circumstances which must be investigated include the illegal kidnapping and transfer of a Mexican citizen to another country without the application of any current law and without the rights established by extradition treaties.

Senator Dulce Maria Suari Riancho also spoke in support of the approval of the protest document, stating that this was the best opportunity to make the Mexican Senate's voice heard in defense of national sovereignty and the laws that regulate coexistence among nations.

She said the best defense of sovereignty is based on firmly demanding respect for the state of law, stressing: "I believe I must emphasize and demand this in view of alleged events that are being investigated. Our authorities have demanded an in-depth investigation of those events."

The document was put to a vote, and the senators unanimously approved it.

Editorial Terms Reported Kidnappings 'Worrisome'

PA2604010590 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Apr 90 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Worrisome Kidnappings"]

[Text] The truth about the case of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, presumably implicated in the murder of a DEA agent in 1985, is very worrying. It now appears that Alvarez Machain was kidnapped by DEA agents who wanted to bring him to stand trial in the United States. The delicacy of this matter prompted the Mexican Government to present today before the White House a "vigorous request for information."

Some past events allow one to better determine what this possible kidnapping means. In 1986, something similar happened with another Mexican citizen suspected of participating in the murder of agent Camarena. Thus, following the occurrence of the second case, there is a precedent that allows one to conclude there is a trend. In addition, it should not be forgotten that less than two months ago the U.S. Supreme Court of Justice issued a ruling that exempted DEA agents from having to obtain judicial orders to carry out raids and compile evidence when operating abroad against citizens from other countries. One can easily conclude that this legal shield covers, in some cases, the kidnapping suspects—especially cases that are delicate from Washington's standpoint, such as in the Camarena case.

Mexico should make it clear that there is no room for concession in dealing with these matters. The law is precise concerning this subject and in no way is a violation of the law justified. Whether he is guilty or not, Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain can only be tried by the legal system of our country. Moreover, there must be a report on the matter, and also a strong rejection of illegal actions and actions in violation of Mexican sovereignty, like those reportedly carried out by U.S. agents.

Costa Rica

Former President Suspended From PLN Position

PA2504171490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2250 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] San Jose, 24 Apr (DPA)—It was officially announced today in San Jose that the court of ethics of the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN-Social Democratic) of Costa Rica has suspended former President Daniel Oduber, president of the PLN national directorate, for one year.

The sanction was the result of a prolonged trial within the ruling PLN, after Oduber was acused of having received a 1-million colon contribution ($11,000) from U.S. citizen Lionel Casey, arrested in Costa Rica for his alleged links with drug trafficking.

The money was used in the 1986 political campaign that Oduber organized in the northern Province of Guanacaste for the PLN, an election that was won by incumbent President Oscar Arias.

The ruling of the court of ethics, made public today in San Jose by PLN Secretary General Walter Coto, suspended the former president for 12 months from all his political positions in the party.

The sanction is retroactive to 4 August 1989, after Oduber left his position in the party at the request of the political directorate of the PLN.

As a result of Casey's donation for the campaign of the ruling PLN in Costa Rica, a legislative commission that investigates drug trafficking ruled in June of 1989—among other recommendations—that the former president resigned from all the political positions that he held at the time.

Oduber, who was president of Costa Rica between 1974 and 1978, is also one of the vice presidents for Latin America of the Socialist International.

Nicaragua

Addresses at Chamorro Inauguration Ceremony

Speech by Cardinal Obando

PA2604033490 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1649 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Speech by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo on the occasion of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's inauguration at the Rigoberto Lopez Perez National Stadium in Managua—live]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr. President Daniel Ortega Saavedra [shouts and applause]; Your Excellency President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro [shouts and applause]; Your Excellencies members of the state branches; Your Excellencies heads of state and delegations which accompany us; Your Excellency Monsignor Luciano Pectorero, representative of His Holiness John Paul II [applause]; Your Excellency Monsignor Pablo Giglio, apostolic nuncio of Nicaragua [applause]; Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps [applause]; Honorable ministers of state; civil and military authorities; respected audience:

Nicaragua has begun a new phase of life in democracy [shouts and applause]; the democracy that has just been restored [boos and cat calls] must be strengthened at its foundation, so it is essential to be clearly enlightened in the ways to achieve it. Each and every citizen must assume with responsibility for and awareness of the role that corresponds to them in their own sectors. The difficult task of restoring democracy implies some essential conditions for its full achievement; first of all, bearing in mind the principle of separation and balance of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as stated in the Constitution.

It is appropriate to recall some of the conditions that refer to the role of the majority and the minority in government actions. The two must serve the people, rather than a party, and their goal [interrupted by applause]....and their goal must always be to achieve the people's welfare. The majority must respect other opinions and, in like manner, the opposition must be constructive. It is not a matter of harassing the enemy or preventing implementation of a policy, but of supervising, with serenity and justice, the actions of the ruling majority, and of proposing other legitimate solutions. In addition, the opposition must remain alert to the danger of diverse forms of authoritarianism, which might invade the minds and actions of politicians—even in a democratic system.

Given that democracy demands personal, cognizant, and pledged participation, citizens must strive to achieve an improved civic education so they are not gregarious crowds, but responsible people. [applause] Nevertheless, fulfilling these and other conditions does not guarantee a democratic life because it is not simply a form of government. It is essentially a lifestyle that implies coexisting with others in unity. Pluralism implies respect for others within a responsible atmosphere of liberty. Unity must essentially be the result of an internal state of mind—setting aside personal ambitions and empty sectarianism—and the sincere search for general welfare, which is the sum of conditions for a social life and which allows associations and their members to fully and easily achieve their own perfection.

The participation of the people, the families, intermediate associations, and institutions must undoubtedly be oriented and supervised by the authorities, whose specific goal is to lead the people toward achieving general welfare. [applause] There can be no real or stable political democracy without social justice. The universal

nature of this justice must be the sign of a democracy with Christian spirit, and special attention should be given to the most needy.

This statement reminds us today that it is not possible to strengthen democracy without social justice, which should be the result of a joint effort by the government and all sectors of the people. Life in democracy is equivalent to full respect for the rights of all members who form part of the community, that is, respect for their rights both in their personal lives as well as in their organizations and associations.

We should create in our country an atmosphere of confidence in the institutions that have responsibility for issuing the norms of coexistence, guarding the implementation of such norms, and punishing any violators. This should be carefully guarded as a basic value of social life. Intermediate associations such as labor unions, enterprises, and cultural organizations are a vital force for the community and their specific missions in the nation should be respected in all of their rights and functions, according to their specific objectives.

Democracy as a way of life is based on the nation itself. The nation, in turn, is based on culture. Nicaraguan culture is based on Latin American culture. It has been established throughout nearly five centuries, and it contains values based on the Gospel. We do not hesitate to state that Nicaragua's soul is Christian, and therefore open to pluralism and other concepts as it respects freedom of thought. Under the present circumstances, we cannot but express our concern about groups that seek to introduce a culture contrary to our national being. [applause]

We trust that those who should safeguard the well-being of the fatherland will comply with the duty of defending the cultural identity of our people, who have been subjected at times to unfamiliar pressure. Within this atmosphere, it is necessary to refer particularly to education.

According to the teachings of Vatican Council II, the family transmits basic values in the first school of social virtues and its educational task is so important that when there is no family, it is very difficult to replace it. In the family, the parents are the first educators of their children and to complete their task they freely choose the school that best suits their way of thinking. Freedom of education is a basic right of all human beings, and the state cannot restrict that. [applause]

Education is not only for all men, but for the entire man, that rational creature with an important destiny. If the process of education is restricted to teaching alone, but tries to disregard basic values, if there is no God or morals in the schoolroom, then this education does not meet the requirements of being an overall education. [applause]

The rights of the students' parents must be considered because they have priority. One seriously educates students to achieve true democracy when one promotes orderly participation of everyone, obedience and loyalty to the authorities and to the institutions of the country, as well as consideration for the opinions of others.

One does not do democracy any favor when only superficial or arbitrary measures are adopted on behalf of democracy. [applause] Inasmuch as society is the agent of education, one should take care that erroneous values do not contaminate education. [applause]

There will never be democracy in our fatherland without a true spirit of reconciliation. To converge toward unity and participation in which no one will be unjustly excluded, it is necessary to have effective reconciliation. It is precisely on this point that the Christian spirit offers at this time a more specific contribution. We believe it is our duty as bishops to support a total and thorough national reconciliation. [applause]

Political actions require a serious attitude. This has always been mandatory given the tragedy of the war and, even in cases when violence has been avoided, politics have always been the most important area for conflicts, confrontations, and the phenomenon of domination. Many men with decisionmaking authority are worried by the future consequences of their decisions. Every citizen must necessarily make himself responsible for the future. Today's politics compromise the future. We build cities, modernize areas, and prepare the groundwork for the children's health in 2000. We must mobilize our energies and strength to discover and predict the critical areas of the future: urban development, the organization of our territory, the style and conditions of a family's life, biological policies, permanent education and cultural activities, and future labor and leisure time.

Political action demands clear minds. All those who assume a responsibility clearly ascertain this. This is a difficult virtue, because illusions are comfortable. Nevertheless, Christian and human authenticity are impossible without a clear mind. A clear mind implies clairvoyance about our own motivations and the conditions of our own options. A clear mind helps us recognize the true nature of political actions—which represent a bet, an adventure, and a risk, and which invent situations and create events. [applause] A clear mind also helps us recognize our limitations. Political actions are relative. Christians cannot be idle men. Their faith drives them and gives them no respite. They must try to turn an imperfect city into another, less imperfect, city. They know that this process will continue until the end of time; and that a marvelous society—wholly honest and fraternal—will never be achieved. They also know that politics, like everything human, is victim to the mystery of evil and that societies everywhere will always face enormous challenges and permanent and irreducible challenges, even when situations may change. This is part of the conflict between the rulers and the ruled.

What activist, leader, or person in charge does not recognize in his spirit and conscience that political actions demand severity? Human societies are complicated and complex, and politics is an original phenomenon. It represents a complex task that includes not only efforts to achieve general welfare, but also the citizens' discovery of the reasons and goals for a life in common. This task involves not only words, it also involves actions. Political relations cannot be reduced to a person-to-person basis.

Everyone must continuously examine the validity of his diagnostics and options. Political knowledge is never perfect. Societies change and there are more things in life than can be covered in a system. Current societies are extremely difficult to know because they are highly diversified sociologically and because problems are internationalized. No system can fully account for them. Christians, in the name of the need for truth, must avoid falling prisoner, consciously or not, to absolute systems. Political action requires imagination—an intense effort of social imagination—to respond to the needs of man today. Political debates frequently have a tendency to be lost in analyses and schemes that possibly were acceptable at the beginning, but that due to the swiftness of evolution have become obsolete. The future, which already hinges on the present, requires a bold, renewed vision.

The recent debates on the gaps and threats of evolution demonstrate the scope of the problems, problems raised with a view to the future. How can one imagine the forms of social life, the type of society that Nicaraguans and women want by the end of the 20th century and in the future beyond? Consumer societies with illusive happiness, or societies of justice and human fulfillment? How can one avoid interpreting this evolution as an interpellation of our God, who, since the beginning of the world, entrusted the earth to all of us so we, through the help of his grace, would strive to make it a place of justice and fraternity. My dear brothers, all men must be concerned with having peace. The task of building peace corresponds directly and mainly with political leaders. Based on that premise, the principal place to build peace is always the nation, as a politically organized society. The formation of a political society always has as its goal to establish justice, to promote common welfare with the participation of all. The peace of this society can only be achieved as long as these three imperatives are respected. Peace exists only where the elemental demands of justice are safeguarded, with unconditional and effective respect for the inalienable rights that cannot be forsaken of each person, to permit peace to prevail in society.

All other rights stem from these fundamental rights one way or another, or are secondary. A society in which these rights are not protected shatters the idea of universality from the moment that only some individuals establish for their own benefit a principle of discrimination, whereby the rights and existence of fellow beings are subject to the arbitration of the strongest. A society conceived in this manner can never be at peace with itself. It has in itself a principle of division and explosion. For the same reason, a political society cannot collaborate effectively in building international peace if it does not have peace in itself or if it does not give serious consideration to the rights of man. To the extent that the leaders of a given nation dedicate themselves to building a totally just society, to a similar extent there will be a decisive contribution to building an authentic, solid, and lasting peace.

We beseech you Lord, to instill the leaders of the destiny of our fatherland with intelligence and awareness of responsibility so they will use the achievements of science and technology for the peace and progress of the people of Nicaragua.

We ask you God, that through the Holy Ghost, faith will be deep-rooted and consolidated in the Christian community. May communion overcome all the germs of division. May hope acquire new life in those who are discouraged. May Jesus Christ always be the light of Nicaragua, and may the world recognize him as its disciple, because we remain in his word and we know that the truth will set us free with the freedom of the children of God. [applause]

Ortega Farewell Speech

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[Speech by outgoing President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the inaugural ceremony of incoming President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the Rigoberto Lopez Perez National Stadium in Managua—live]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan brothers. [booing, applause]. Cain and Abel were brothers. In Nicaragua we do not want Cains, we want Abels. The people who voted on 25 February voted for peace. [applause] Did one of us here today vote for war? [crowd shouts: "No"] Who voted for war? [crowd shouts: "No one"] Who voted for war? [crowd shout: "No one"] Who voted for war? [crowd shouts: "No one"] Who voted for peace? [response indistinct] The people, because the people are all the Nicaraguan people who voted on 25 February 1990. But can Nicaragua's history be compared to Chile's history? [crowd shouts: "No"] Did the Nicaraguan people, the Sandinists, the anti-Somozists [booing and whistling] overthrow a democratic government on 19 July 1979? [crowd shouts: "No"] Was Somozism democratic? [crowd shouts: "No"] Where are the Somozists? [response indistinct] Where are the Somozists? [response indistinct] Where are the Somozists? [response indistinct] The Somozists left Nicaragua on 19 July 1979. But Somozism was a system and this is why we find within the ranks of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the UNO [National Opposition Union] people who were linked to Somozism but who have put their patriotic interests and the country's interests ahead of their personal interests. On 19 July 1979 we overthrew an infamous system we all rejected; it killed us and put us in jail. [indistinct shouts]

Who assassinated Pedro Joaquin Chamorro if not Somozism? Who assassinated Camilo Ortega if not Somozism? Who assassinated Sandino if not Somozism? Who was behind Somozism—an entire system promoted and supported by the mistaken policies that the U.S. leaders have always repeated throughout Latin America. [booing and whistling]

A president... [indistinct shouts] [changes thought] Listen here, how can we ask the U.S. delegation to leave; they have been invited to this event. [applause] We have a right to speak; that is democracy and an achievement of the revolution. We conquered the right to speak and will continue to defend our right to speak. [applause] We earned the right to organize and will continue to defend that right. We earned the people's right to education and will continue to defend that right. We earned the peasants' right to land and will continue to defend that right.

Can anyone here dare think that land must be taken away from peasants? [crowd shouts: No!] Of course not, land must not be taken away from peasants. We had to agree on something. Can anyone here dare reject the right of the people to get an education and health benefits? Who can reject that? No one. The struggle has been hard and it has been provoked by the U.S. leaders who, after the revolutionary victory, did not understand the Nicaraguan process and decided to start a war against Nicaragua.

There is an International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling. When there are disputes, rather, [changes thought] what do two neighbors do when there is a dispute between them? Do they shoot it out? Do they throw stones at each other? Or do they go to a judge? They must go to a judge. There was a dispute between the United States and the Nicaraguan Government and people. We went to the ICJ. We went to a judge U.S. rulers have gone to on many occasions. In other words, a judge not only for the Nicaraguan people but for all nations. This judge is the ICJ. It is a judge that has even ruled in favor of U.S. rulers several times. So, we went to that judge. We kept saying: No, they are guilty. They kept saying: They are guilty. When were we going to agree on who was guilty? Imagine. However, the judge said: The United States, with its bad policy, is guilty and must stop the embargo against Nicaragua. It must stop the dirty war against Nicaragua. It must compensate the Nicaraguan people.

Who can oppose compensation for the Nicaraguan people? The money that U.S. leaders gave during the entire past administration was not to build schools and health centers, or develop cooperatives. That money was used to arm Nicaraguans so that—like Ruben Dario said—brothers and brothers would make war and men and women would be like dogs and bitches.

But Nicaraguans have dignity and cannot agree to continue to be instruments of death and war. Nicaraguans can make their own decisions. [applause]

There is a suit for $17 billion against the U.S. Government. Why? To use all that money to help the war disabled, the war victims, and even the contras who have been victims of this unjust and cruel war they did not want. [applause] This money would be used so that all Nicaraguans who have suffered with this war will have material help to rebuild their lives—those who did not lose them—and so that their relatives will be able to have a few resources.

If there is one noble, brave gesture U.S. Government leaders can make at this time, it is—first of all—to stop dictating policies to Nicaraguans. We make our own policy decisions. [applause] If we engage in a fight among ourselves here, it is our fight and we will settle it among Nicaraguans. No outsider should come here to impose policies on us.

If we reached agreement here on 27 March on the transfer of power—which was a historic action in favor of Nicaraguan reconciliation—we Nicaraguans must do this, in the final analysis, and no outsider must come here to tell us that this must or must not be done. [applause]

Did all of us who are gathered here and those who are listening to us at their homes, in the neighborhoods, in the villages, or in the mountains vote on 25 April to be slaves? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Did we vote on 25 April to be a colony of any power? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Did we vote to be independent? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Did we vote to be free? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Did we vote for Nicaragua to be better? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Then we have here a representation of high-ranking government leaders from Latin America, North America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, Europe, East Europe—from everywhere in the world. They have come here with a willingness to help us.

However, how enthusiastic can they be about helping us if we Nicaraguans do not understand each other? We Nicaraguans must understand each other first. We must lay minimum groundwork to have stability in our country in order to make these friends enthusiastic about helping Nicaragua and in order for them to continue assisting Nicaragua regardless of their ideology. What matters is that they assist Nicaragua, because the Nicaraguan people have won the right to international cooperation and deserve an opportunity. [applause]

It has been proven that it was necessary to overthrow the Somozist dictatorship by the force of arms. There was no other way. The people united around Sandino's red and black flag to defend Nicaragua's blue and white flag. I remember as a child, while looking at the newspaper LA PRENSA on the occasion of the anniversary of Sandino's assassination, seeing Pedro Joaquin Chamorro sitting at his desk with a photograph of Sandino behind him. Sandino raised the red and black flag to defend Nicaragua's dignity and independence. Somozism fell at Sandino's hands, which again raised the red and black flag.

Sandino has defended Nicaragua these past 10 years for us to be able to continue building this democracy with

great limitations and with great difficulties, because the truth is that this is a brand new experience for all of us. Who can deny this? Who had ever experienced a democratic transfer of power here in Nicaragua after holding free elections? Who had this experience? This is a miracle of Sandino; it is a miracle of the revolution. [applause] This is a miracle of the people and, therefore, a miracle of God. [applause]

If socioeconomic and politial problems were solved by force, we would not have held elections. What were we going to hold elections for, to climb into trenches and start fighting? If problems were solved only with guns, why hold elections, why transfer power, why all this? It would all be a farce if we Nicaraguans again confronted each other tomorrow with weapons on the streets. This would be a farce.

Tomorrow the Nicaraguan people want to unite their efforts and bury their hate to help the country. That is what the Nicaraguan people are demanding. [applause]

We have waged another battle for democracy, the second free elections in Nicaraguan history. The first elections were bombarded, but, despite this, for the first time in the history of Nicaragua seven parties participated in those elections. This has been the second free election to be held in Nicaragua. On several occasions we have said that when I spent seven years and one month in jail, when Camilo was assassinated, when thousands of Nicaraguans were being murdered, and when the Somozist colonels were murdering the peasants in the Posoltega ravine, we never dreamed we would live to see a Nicaragua free of Somozism and heading toward democracy. Democracy is not built in a day. It is built and defended every day. Democracy does not end in one day. Democracy did not end with the revolutionary triumph on 19 July, it did not end with the 1984 elections, and it will not end with these 1990 elections. Democracy requires a constant effort by all the Nicaraguans to renew, refresh, and enrich it, so that Nicaragua will be more and more democratic and free in the full sense of the word—in other words, economically, socially, and politically democratic. Democracy means that all the Nicaraguans are respected and that gaps among the various social sectors of Nicaragua will never occur.

We all know the situation the country is facing. On 25 February all the Nicaraguan people cast their vote for peace. I cast my vote for peace, aware that the elections could be lost. But what good is power if you cannot solve the big social problems? What good is power if you cannot work in favor of lifting the blockade and preventing the military aggression the country has experienced? All the Nicaraguan people cast their votes aware of the fact that there are always some extremists who believe that the time has come to blow the heads off the Sandinists. [indistinct shouts] However, we must remember that under adverse conditions 41 percent of the people gave their vote to the Sandinists. If they were to blow the heads off the Sandinists, they would be attempting to finish off 50 percent of Nicaragua's population, and only a madman could be thinking something like this. Only a genocidal person like Somoza or Hitler could be thinking about such a thing. What would happen would be real slaughter, because the Sandinists are men and women of a free fatherland, or death. [people shout: "Or death!"]

It is not the time to continue promoting hate, violence, and war. It is time to promote peace. It is time for all of us to say, with our hearts and minds, and above all with our actions, independent of our ideological and political beliefs, that we want peace, because only that person deserves to be a Nicaraguan and only that person can be truly called a Christian. [applause]

The people are tired of peace. [sentence as heard] Let extremist minorities not be mistaken. The fact that in their feverish minds they want to choose leaders does not mean that the people want them. Let them not be mistaken that that is what the people intend to do or that that is what all the people want.

The people voted to put an end to war. They voted to put an end to peace. [sentence as heard] Now Nicaraguans have a great opportunity. Two great factors are at play right now to achieve a minimum stability. I responsibly urge all Nicaraguans, regardless of political affiliation, to back wise actions, the measures in favor of reconciliation: the 27 March transition agreement and the agreement signed by the contras for disarmament, a disarmament that will begin this afternoon on 25 April and should conclude on 10 June, at the latest. [applause]

Who would want more war with the contras? Who wants the contras? Who would want their children to fight the contras? How many of those gathering here want their children to fight in favor of the contras so that brothers can continue to kill each other?

The agreements were made and we must defend them all. These are the big, immediate tasks Nicaraguans have: achieving stability by supporting and encouraging the 27 March agreements and encouraging and supporting the disarmament signed here on 19 April so that the contras will be completely disarmed, beginning on the afternoon of 25 April and ending on 10 June, at the latest.

What kind of Nicaragua will we have without this kind of war? We will have to wage a war against economic problems, against social problems, and against all those problems that afflict and affect all developing countries. Present here are very distinguished and renowned heads of state who could talk for a long time about the profound crisis they face in their respective countries and the profound crisis Latin America is confronting in the socioeconomic field due to an unjust international economic order that prevents our people's development. It is an unjust international economic order aimed at keeping us subjugated, as slaves; it is an order that does not want to recognize our right to walk, advance, and develop. In the end, though, the people have the last word, and the Nicaraguan people on 19 July 1979 and in

the 25 February elections ratified their determination to continue on the path toward full self-determination, full economic independence, and full socioeconomic development. [applause]

I must give credit to all those Nicaraguans who with great patriotism worked during the past decade in a critical and constructive way for Nicaragua's well-being. I express my gratitude to all those government officials who worked so hard for very modest salaries due to the conditions that existed in the country. I am grateful to the working people who participated, and to the youth, workers, and women who participated in the health and education campaigns.

We have made some progress. We cannot deny it. We have advanced in democratizing the economy and in democratizing education and health. Above all, we have advanced because our people have a right to express and organize themselves. This event that we Nicaraguans are witnessing and hearing here today is the best proof that democracy exists in Nicaragua and that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has not failed! [applause]

I have told President-elect Violeta Chamorro, who in a few minutes will be the president of all Nicaraguans, that I am willing to work with a constructive spirit. In other words, the opposition that will be waged here by the Sandinists will be a constructive opposition. What does this mean? I will give you an example of what constructive opposition means.

When during my administration I visited European and Latin American presidents to seek help for the Nicaraguan people, there were some extremists here who said that there was no need to give help to the Nicaraguan people. Of course, the extremists did not care because they were the ones for whom everything was ensured. They care little about others. However, when the Nicaraguans were denied this help, this help was being denied to Nicaraguans of all political and ideological strata. When the U.S. market was closed, it was closed to the Nicaraguans who voted for the FSLN and the Nicaraguans who voted for the UNO. This economic embargo harmed all of us Nicaraguans.

I did not request an economic embargo because the opposition party won or because Mrs. Chamorro won. On the contrary, I said I would request that the embargo against Nicaragua be lifted. I said it, and I did so. I told this to Vice President Quayle in Chile, two days before President Bush announced the lifting of the embargo against Nicaragua. [applause]

I also will not ask that the contras continue to be financed so that the war will continue in Nicaragua and we have peasants dying on one and the other side and youths dying on one and the other side. I will request that the agreements be fulfilled, that the contras be disarmed immediately, and that by 10 July there will not be a single contra in Nicaragua and they will be working the land and working on all the jobs they can perform.

What does constructive opposition mean? That the Constitution, which serves as a guideline at this historic time, is a daughter of this revolutionary process, a daughter of the revolution, and a daughter of the Nicaraguan people. We are all going to defend the country's Constitution. Of course, we will also defend the social and economic achievements. We cannot believe, as has been brazenly said, that all the economic problems will be solved tomorrow. That is not true. They will not be solved. I ask the Nicaraguan people to display a constructive attitude in light of the serious economic problems the country is facing so that we can, in an orderly manner and in accordance with the law, make our demands, if that should become necessary. What would we gain tomorrow from a Nicaragua in chaos and anarchy? What would we gain from a Nicaragua with war in the cities? Who would want this? We all reject this.

I would say that the tasks awaiting the new government are tasks that all of us Nicaraguans must share, because it is a very big burden. Otherwise, the country will fall apart. There must be realistic and constructive positions on one and the other side. There must be points of agreement on one and the other side. We already know that we have political and ideological differences. But is that not democracy? We are not obliged to all think the same way. We do not all have to speak, laugh, and get angry the same way. All of us must, however, work for peace in the same way, which is working to disarm the contras and ensure that the 27 March accords are respected.

Under these circumstances, Nicaraguan brothers, and completing one more stage of this heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people, in a few minutes I will become just one more citizen who will be at the front with the FSLN to defend the achievements of the poor, whether they are of the FSLN or the UNO and regardless of the political party they belong to. The poor do not belong to any political party. The poor have needs, and those needs and problems must be resolved. All should refrain from seeking out the poor and taking away what they have. On the contrary, we must all help and support them. I, Daniel Ortega, will be there with the FSLN, Sandino, and the poor. Long live free Nicaragua! Free homeland or death! [applause]

Chamorro Inaugural Address

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[Inaugural Speech by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the Rigoberto Lopez Perez National Stadium in Managua—live]

[Text] Dear Dr. Miriam Arguello, president of the National Assembly; friends of the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Electoral Council; distinguished presidents and heads of state and government; delegations of friendly countries; guests—my friends—at this democratic festivity; my dear friend and esteemed Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo [applause];

my esteemed Dr. Virgilio Godoy, vice president of the Republic of Nicaragua [applause]; dear members of the outgoing and incoming cabinets; Commander Daniel Ortega [applause]; compatriots present here and those who are listening to me over the radio and television.

During my electoral campaign, I promised that Nicaragua was going to be a Republic again. [applause] Today marks the dawn of that republic that was born from the people's vote and that was born, not from shouts and bullets, but from the deepest silence of the Nicaraguan soul: from the conscience. [applause]

It is very beautiful to begin a republic without blood, like a new sun of justice and freedom. This is the first ray of that sun. Like a Nicaraguan poet said, we have been the most persevering democracy [words indistinct] Latin America today. For 100 years, we have wished for this democratic republic where we could all be free and equal before the law. We would win a struggle, but there was always a military ambition that would spoil what had been won. But the Republic would rise again as a result of a desire for democracy, a dream. Some died for this dream. Others endured prison and exile for it. My husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, gave his life for this Republic. [applause]

His blood now flourishes. The people's vote sprouted from his blood and dreams. We have reached the promised land. This is the Nicaragua the poor sought to lift them out of misery. This is the Nicaragua heroes sought when they gave up their lives. This is the Nicaragua that the exiles expelled by the dictatorships are seeking. This is the promised land. [applause]

This is the blue and white Nicaragua, without tyrants and without ideologies that destroyed its realities and without lies that concealed our history. This is the blessed Nicaragua that instead of burying children in fratricidal wars will bury arms forever so the voice of cannons will never, never roar again, as our national anthem pleads. [applause]

There is no sovereignty without freedom or justice without freedom. There cannot even be any Nicaraguan without freedom because Nicaragua's soul and reason to exist is freedom. [applause]

However, freedom also means respect—respect for the rights of others, respect for the law, respect for the property of others, respect for other peoples' feelings and opinions. Freedom will never imply a bored fatherland of puppets who think alike. Freedom is a fatherland of initiatives and pluralism with citizens who respect beliefs and opinions. My government has been blessed with this freedom and respect.

I am here because the majority of the people wanted that: no more killings because of ideological or party beliefs, coexistence among brothers. [applause] Choosing me was the plebiscite for fraternity. We can only be free if we are brothers. That is what my maternal instincts tell me. [applause]

Saying this brings something to mind: My husband had a boat he used to cross Lake Nicaragua. The boat was called Santa Libertad. I like to think that the name was an omen and that that is the name of the boat on which I will cross my years in government: Santa Libertad. That is why nothing can make me happier than receiving the presidency with a future of peace just over the horizon. The signing of the agreements between the Nicaraguan Resistance, the Sandinist People's Army, and representatives of my government, ensures definitive peace. This means that under their political and ideological beliefs, the Nicaraguan people have a noble patriotic heart. With that heart we will raise our honor and our country's potentials in a very short time. With that heart, we say: Honor to those who have fallen; honor to those who fought and gave their lives for their beliefs; but greater honor to those who have understood that reconciliation is much more beautiful than victory. [applause] I call on everyone to live and coexist with joy within the spirit of those agreements that represent the triumphant return of peace. I believe it is a national duty to honor and deeply thank, on behalf of the people and my government, the highest ranking spiritual authority, His Eminence Miguel Cardinal Obando y Bravo, our Nicaraguan archbishop, [applause] an untiring fighter for reconciliation, mediator and witness of the peace agreements. His Eminence the cardinal has been a blessing for our country because of his work, his humble ways, his generosity, and his firmness guided by the Gospel; which is the life force that nourishes morale, the fraternal spirit, and the highest virtues of this people throughout history.

I address all those who will help me found a republic, those who will be my ministers, deputy ministers, directors of autonomous agencies, diplomats, advisers, officials, employees; all factors in the reconstruction of Nicaragua; to all my people, I ask and demand that you help and support me with solidarity in these four main tasks: [applause] First, consolidate democratic liberties; second, promote economic production to a maximum potential; third, reduce social inequality; and fourth, instill in all our actions the spirit of reconciliation. [applause]

In the task for the consolidation of democratic liberties, I demand the greatest responsibility from the men who will represent the armed branch and the police. To them and to the judges and magistrates who will impart justice, we demand that they never trample a law or a freedom under my government. [applause] I ask my people to be on the lookout to ensure that no abuses are committed. If each person does his job, we will have a government without a stain in which not only a free citizen, but also the citizen who is in jail, will receive the most humane treatment and enjoy every guarantee of the law.

I am going to grant broad and unconditional amnesty for all common political crimes and related crimes committed by Nicaraguan individuals as of this date. This amnesty will include persons arrested, tried, sentenced,

or awaiting trial, and those captured and sentenced who have served their sentences, who have now been favored forever with a pardon. Let there be no torture ever again. [applause] Human dignity must shine even in the most remote cell during my administration. [applause]

We will cause democracy to advance by gradually reducing militarism. [applause, shouts] Every conflict in Central America must be settled through dialogue, according to the law, and with a fraternal spirit. The new stage in our history demands that we reduce [the size of] the Army [applause] and reduce its budget, which is stifling the Nicaraguan people's economy. [applause]

We must melt the weapons and sell the metal to purchase machinery for agriculture and industry and turn what is keeping us backward into a factor for progress. Together, with my responsibilities as president of the Republic, I am assuming today the supreme command of the nation's Armed Forces [applause, shouts of "Violeta"]. To fulfill, beginning today, the platform for which the people have voted, the Armed Forces are subordinated to civilian authority. [applause, shouts] To underscore the civilian authority that the people will exercise over the military, I am also directly assuming the portfolio of Defense Minister [applause, shouts] to personally direct the demobilization and (?demilitarization) processes and to end the war. [applause]

We are ending militarism and warmongering today [applause, shouts] to establish a definitive, firm, and lasting peace. Loyal to my principles, today I am ordering the definitive suspension of recruitment for obligatory military service [applause, shouts] and decreeing that youths who are currently mobilized be allowed to shorten their time in service and return to their homes as soon as possible. [applause, shouts]

While the demobilization of the resistance forces that has been agreed to is completed, as well as the demobilization of youths in the military service and recovery of weapons in the hands of civilians, I have instructed Army General Humberto Ortega to remain at his post. [applause, shouts] At the same time, Gen. Ortega must establish an orderly program of reduction of the Armed Forces and must guarantee subordination of the military to civilian authorities with respect for constitutional order.

It is the second task of my government to maximally boost economic production. I count on the great enterprise and business spirit of my people, in all classes. We will achieve economic freedom and democratization. However, to fully accomplish this basic task, the people must participate in the great revolution of honesty. Let us not fall into what a holy pope described as the easy temptation of difficult people—enrichment through embezzlement or the abuse of power.

To correct the unjust actions that have taken place in the name of the people, I am sending the Legislative Assembly a number of laws that will allow revision of land confiscations and interventions, which in one way or another were carried out to the detriment of many Nicaraguans. [applause] I want to guarantee here, however, that properties assigned to cooperatives and peasants as part of the agrarian reform will be respected. [applause] Laws will be established to indemnify the former proprietors of these lands because, I am pleased to announce, we are going to maintain a state of rights.

I also want to assure all of you that laws that were recently passed and that go against the nation's interests will be revised [applause] because I do not believe we can make arbitrary use of what is part of the nation's capital. [applause] On this matter, I again ask all Nicaraguans to keep a close watch on all actions with regard to this matter. Any observed abuse must be reported so that no one takes advantage of his position, so that we all have the same opportunities, and so that our economy is truly democratic.

To further this purpose, we will also eliminate all controls and regulations that hindered and stagnated economic production and creativity. We are going to reconstruct our economy with the largest and most powerful mechanism available to unleash people's creative energy; we are going to use freedom. The farm owner will be able to decide what he is going to produce and to whom he will sell it, and he will be able to negotiate the price for his crops. Workers will be free to organize themselves and work wherever they wish, in whatever type of occupation they prefer, and they will be free to negotiate their wages. Businessmen will be free to choose in which activity they want to invest and what risk they want to take in their businesses. They will be free to win or lose. Youths will be free to study or freely choose their occupation, instead of being obliged to take up the terrible occupation of war. [applause]

My government will protect the weakest, most vulnerable sectors—orphans, widows, old people, war cripples—and in a like manner, I am going to appeal to Nicaraguans' patriotism so we may construct a prosperous future for all. In conclusion, I want to announce that my government will promote development and defend our environment. We will form a new organization to watch over, protect, and defend our environment. Nature has been so generous with us. We must defend our ecology so that we can progress in a manner that is orderly and respectful of our geography. We must make rational use of our environmental resources. [applause] We will manage our development in such a way that, in addition to receiving benefits, we will recover today what had been lost because of the actions of past dictatorial regimes that squandered and neglected our children's legacy—these fertile and beautiful lands that have been admired by journalists and travelers of past centuries. In our defense of ecology, we will also respect the tight fusion of the Pacific and the Atlantic as they join in an embrace of reconciliation between men and land.

The third task of my government is to reduce social inequalities. To achieve this, in addition to the measures I have just explained, I have plans for the wealth we

produce to mainly benefit the poorest. [applause] Those who have suffered the most are my privileged ones. We will amend the labor laws in a democratic manner, and we will guarantee all Nicaraguans an increasingly fairer salary so that together we will achieve measures of well-being that will bring greater benefits to the worker and his family. [applause]

On the other hand, the community spirit that was developing so beautifully in Nicaragua was weakened by the political party spirit and by an ideology that was imposed. The CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees] sought the political control of the people by frightening them with espionage and pressures. We must change this, and we must give new life to the community spirit. We must strengthen the communities where the workers have their natural defenses. We must strengthen the families, labor unions, associations, and municipalities so the people will have power, initiatives, responsibilities, and participation in public affairs.

The fourth task is to have the spirit of reconciliation present in all of our actions. This is the most important task that a divided and impoverished Nicaragua demands. The country is filled with disagreements, and we are left with bad memories. We must overcome this sad heritage for the sake of our fatherland and our children. We must be great and generous to reconcile all Nicaraguans, once and for all. Those will be our guidelines. We will raise that beautiful flag of peace and humanism.

In the same manner that we were the reason for Central American controversy in the past, we will become in the future a Central American union supporting everything that will reestablish the unity of all Central Americans, the cultural community, the Central American Common Market, the Central American Parliament. We will also support all joint efforts that will unite this prestigious and great fatherland that proclaimed a united independence as a sign of solidarity and fraternal destiny.

I have chosen the members of my Cabinet with the firm purpose of implementing the government platform I offered the Nicaraguans during my electoral campaign, and of guaranteeing the reconciliation that our country urgently needs.

At this moment I want to pay homage to a great Central American who designed the peace plan, who changed the war situation to a peace situation. I am referring to Costa Rican Oscar Arias Sanchez, [applause] who received a well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize.

I hope that his plan continues to attain peace and that once democracy is achieved, the next step will be the complete demilitarization of all Central America. We will then be a model of coexistence and fraternity for the world.

To my recognition of President Arias, I add the other Central American presidents. In like manner, my government's gratitude—without partisan boundaries—to all the countries and foreign institutions that have proved their goodwill toward Nicaragua by giving us all kinds of economic and cultural support with a generosity that moves us. We hope to be worthy, through our government actions, of the democratic support and solidarity we have received from the world.

Upon restoring democracy and liberty, Nicaragua will join the universal ranks that defend man and his rights. We will strive to achieve the goal of national and Central American unity by establishing the priority of giving our children and youths an education for democracy, an education that is the best and most modern in the technical and scientific order, and—simultaneously—the most human in the formation of the Nicaraguan man as the citizen of a republic and a world in which liberty and human rights have again excelled.

I request the support and efforts of all my teachers, our heroic and sacrificing teachers, and all parents to raise our education to its highest levels. We intend to make the education of the Nicaraguan people recognized throughout the world for its scientific and human quality. Dictatorships form for strength and uniformity; a democracy educates for intellect, rights, and the university. That is why our work in the cultural sector will be to improve rather than direct. My government will open the doors to freedom and culture that Ruben Dario left open to the world, the doors that an ideology tried to close through an erroneous policy of control that the whole world has rejected during these glorious years of liberation. [applause]

Nicaraguans, the eyes of the world are on us. Our road must be the correct one. Our work must be fruitful. I trust my people—my generous, courageous, idealistic, and open-hearted people—and my God. I am proud to be a Nicaraguan; I am strong because I am a Nicaraguan, and I have the solidarity of the Nicaraguans. I am the first woman to receive the Nicaraguan people's mandate to preside over a government. [applause]

This is an immense responsibility, but I count on my people and I ask God to help me. He is the God of my people, the God of my parents, the God who is the Lord of our history. I ask him to enlighten me and give me strength to fulfill my duty and fulfill my people's hopes. [applause]

Nicaraguans, Nicaraguans, I am your president. I do not want to rule. I want to serve. Thank you, my dear friends! Long live Nicaragua! [applause and shouts]

Gorbachev Sends Letter to Daniel Ortega

PA2504231690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Apr 90 p 5

[Text of Mikhail Gorbachev letter to outgoing President Daniel Ortega—date not given]

[Text] Daniel Ortega Saavedra,

Coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]:

Dear Comrade Daniel Ortega;

I would like to take advantage of the USSR delegation's participation in the activities on the occasion of the inauguration of the new president of the Republic of Nicaragua, to send to you, the members of the FSLN National Directorate and all FSLN activists, my cordial and friendly greetings.

The celebration—upon the initiative of the Sandinists—of general elections under broad international control represented the true embodiment of the road you proclaimed toward reconciliation and national consensus, and the democratization of social life within the spirit of the principles of the 1979 national democratic revolution. By guaranteeing the conditions for genuinely free elections, and by accepting the results with courage and dignity, the FSLN has proven that national interests and the country's welfare prevail above all else.

The FSLN remains an influential force after the elections. The country's subsequent development depends much on its actions. No one can deny the historical merits of the FSLN, which defeated the Somoza tyranny and built the foundations of the people's power. The Soviet Union salutes the fact that, despite the new conditions, you have shown a high degree of responsibility and that you have used your moral prestige and authority to successfully conclude the peace process.

We unconditionally support the FSLN's demand for the contras' demobilization, and we ascertain with satisfaction that you and the future government have established good contacts, and that, being faithful to your ideals, the Sandinists sponsor cooperation with the national forces—and that you are willing to play the role of a constructive opposition in the internal political sector.

The elections in Nicaragua have given a considerable boost to resolution of the Central American conflict. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we will continue our policy of supporting a solution to the Central America issue, and we will help, with specific steps, to achieve progress in the Esquipulas process—in which you and your collaborators have made an important contribution.

We fully support your opinion on the need to continue Soviet-Nicaraguan cooperation, we advocate the continuance of friendly relations with Nicargua, and we are willing to cooperate with the new government in your country. Within this context, we hope that our multilateral links with the FSLN will represent an important part of our future bilateral relations, so that they may serve to consolidate friendship and mutual understanding between the USSR and Nicaragua.

My heartfelt wishes for success in your activities for the Nicaraguan people's welfare.

With sincere respect,

M. Gorbachev

Chamorro Appointees Announce Rejection of Posts

PA2504144490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1408 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Political sources have reported in Managua that a professional and a landowner appointed by President-elect Violeta Chamorro as members of the new cabinet that is to be sworn in today resigned to protest the maintaining of General Humberto Ortega in a top army post.

According to Radio Catolica, a radio station close to the new government, Gilberto Cuadra, president of (COSEP) who was proposed as the new construction and transportation minister, announced that he will not accept the post. Cuadra is also one of Chamorro's key advisers.

Land owner Jaime Cuadra Somarriba, who was mentioned as the agriculture minister, is the other person who has resigned, disgusted because Gen. Ortega could be kept in a top military post. Cuadra Somarriba is also a Chamorro adviser in matters concerning the demobilization and disarmament of Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) members.

Ortega, the current defense minister, is also chief of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and, to continue in top army commands, he recently resigned from the Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) Party.

Other sources noted that Engineer Sofonias Cisneros Leiva, proposed to head the Education Ministry, is also willing to reject the post for the same reasons as Cuadra.

The new president is to swear in her cabinet early this aftrenoon in her first act in the Managua Government House.

Chamorro Swears in New Cabinet; 1st Official Act

PA2604025890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—In her first government action after taking over as president of Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro today appointed and swore in her cabinet of 10 [as received] ministers.

In a session held at the government palace in Managua, Chamorro anounced the appointment of the following ministers:

Government (former Interior Ministry)	Carlos Hurtado
Foreign Affairs	Enrique Dreyfus Morales
Finances	Emilio Pereira Alegria
Education	Sofonias Cisneros Leiva

Agriculture and Livestock	Roberto Rondon Sacasa
Economy and Development	Silvio de Franco
Health	Ernesto Salmeron Bermudez
Labor	Francisco Rosales Arguello
Presidency	Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren,

Lacayo Oyanguren is Violeta Chamorro's son-in-law. She also swore in the following new officials:

President, Central Bank of Nicaragua	Francisco Mayorga
Director, Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast	Brooklyn Rivera

Chamorro on Contras, Military Service, Policies

AU2504163490 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 25 Apr 90 p 7

[Hildegard Stausberg report on interview with President-elect Violeta Chamorro in Managua on 24 April: "Do Not Believe That I Am Soft"]

[Text] Managua—There are no policemen standing in front of the door and bodyguards are not to be seen anywhere either. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro still receives her guests at home. She feels best surrounded by her memories, she says with a smile. She puts the long crutches on a stool and carefully sits down in a black leather chair. Her ankle fracture, which handicapped her during the election campaign, is almost completeley healed. Everywhere in the house there are photos of her children, her grandchildren, and her husband Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. One whole room reminds one of the former publisher of the newspaper LA PRENSA: His motorbike stands at the entrance and beside it is a small madonna. The clothes he wore when he was murdered in 1978 are in a glass cabinet.

"Dona Violeta," as she is called, seems to be neither nervous nor excited shortly before she assumes office on Wednesday [25 April]. On the contrary, since her electoral victory on 25 Februray she has become even more self-confident. Her "message" has remained the same, but she presents it with more commitment and confidence: The fratricidal war in Nicaragua must come to an end. "Therefore, the first and most important objective of my government is national reconciliation." She regards the agreement concluded between the Sandinists and their opponents, the Contras, on 19 April as a basis for it. "Both sides decided to give in. I trust that the armed anti-Sandinists—I do not like the word Contras—will lay down their arms, and I will insist on the reduction of the Sandinist Armed Forces." Her dark eyes are sparkling belligerently: "I will not permit the war in Nicaragua to continue."

The fighters of armed resistance will be generously helped during their reintegration into civilian life: "Their fight was often not correctly understood abroad; many are only peasants who took up arms when the Sandinists started the compulsory collectivization of agriculture. We will give them land to cultivate." "Dona Violeta" does not explicitly deal with the country's gloomy economic situation. She admits, however, that the Sandinists used the time after the elections to give "presents" to their adherents "in an irresponsible way." These cases have to be examined "separately" after her assumption of office: "We do not know what is left behind for us and how empty the coffers really are." She pins great hopes on help from foreign countries. "If they supported the Sandinists before, there are even more reasons to help us now. After all, 54 percent of the Nicaraguans voted for us in free and incontestable elections." However, more and better work by the Nicaraguans is more important than foreign help: "We will create incentives for it."

She refers only casually to the strikes in the many ministries in the past few weeks. "These are childish tricks," she says with a smile and shrugs it off. It is more important that the new government appoints able persons to the most important posts, people who will work "properly."

However, she deals in detail with one of her favorite subjects, that is, the abolition of compulsory military service. She will start work on that immediately after her assumption of office. "Military service will be abolished. We do not need large-scale Armed Forces. What on earth for?" Dona Violeta believes that the Nicaraguan people want peace after many years of civil war. "The overwhelming majority of Nicaraguans think and, above all, feel like I do. This gives me strength and confidence." She is totally committed to establishing closer ties with the Central American neighboring states. "All Central American countries know that my government is not a threat to them." The unification of Central America is one objective of the government, she says. Violeta Chamorro reacts violently to the question of who will govern Nicaragua after 25 April. The accusation is increasingly heard that not she, but a "kitchen cabinet" around her will have the say. This is also heard from the ranks of her adherents united in the opposition alliance UNO. "I will govern, and I will do so with the abundance of power that the president's office gives to me." She also rejects the accusation that she concluded a "pact" with the Sandinists. "There is no pact. Talks on all questions concerning the transition from the old to the new government have been, and are being, held. That is all."

Her private secretary, a young niece, enters the room and points at her watch. A Mexican television team is waiting in the hall. The president welcomes everybody with unaffected cordiality. "Do not believe that I am soft," she shouts at the leaving journalists. "I can also be tough, as the gringos say, you will see."

RN Leader Says Contras Cannot Leave in 45 Days

PA2504171890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[Report on an interview with Commander Johnny of the Nicaraguan Resistance by Maria Elena Palacios and Aura Peralta in El Guabo, Chontales; date not given]

[Text] Some of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] forces based in Chontales and Boaco which gathered on 22 April in El Guabo said they are willing to demobilize to the extent that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and Interior Ministry [Mint] are reduced.

In an exclusive interview for LA PRENSA, Commander "Johnny," chief of the fifth operational command in the region, said that "progress cannot be made in the demobilization process as long as the EPS and the Mint remain intact, as our forces are, because they are hindering the development of democracy and because the Sandinists have their own long-term interests."

According to the agreements signed between delegates from the RN and the incoming and outgoing governments, the "contras" must surrender their weapons between 25 April and 10 June. However, Commander "Johnny" said that "it is impossible for the contras to disappear in 45 days." "Johnny" said that in past treaties "the demobilization did not take place because the Sandinists did not take steps."

When asked if on this occasion the agreement will be fulfilled, instead of having another signature as on other occasions, "Johnny" pointed out that fulfillment of the agreement will depend on the pressure that international organizations and the new government will exert against the Sandinists.

Nevertheless, he stressed that if the Sandinists do not relinquish power, "we cannot make progress in the demobilization process because if we disarm it would be equal to surrendering to the EPS, and we will not allow that because we have not struggled in vain for nine years."

"Johnny" was dressed in a camouflage uniform different in style to those used by the "compas," the name the contras use to describe the Sandinists. He did not hesitate to say that "we are willing to coordinate with the international organizations from the moment of their arrival in order to be informed of the demobilization process."

The "contras" are faced with the problem of a lack of equipment for the high command to communicate with its forces, which may hinder the demobilization information process.

"This communication problem delays the process. We have troops that are far away and we cannot tell them where our enclaves are located. To do that we would have to use human bridges formed by civilians to send messages informing them of places where they can stay," "Johnny" said.

When asked about the enclave called La Pinuela, which is approximately 35 km from El Guabo, "Johnny" said that in order to enter that enclave there must first be a process of coordination between the general staff and the operational chiefs, but communications problems have precluded the contacts required for this process.

Nevertheless, he said that once the contras enter the enclaves "our weapons will not disapear from our hands until the causes that forced us to fight for nine years disappear. Many of our people died, including collaborators, and others died because they opposed the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

When asked if his struggle can be considered to have been in vain since the incoming government's victory in the past elections resulted from a civil struggle, "Johnny" pointed out that "the electoral process was the result of the pressure that the RN exerted on the Sandinists in the armed struggle."

"If the Sandinists had not been pressured by the armed struggle, they would not have gotten involved in any sort of negotiation, and none of the Central American agreements would have been signed," he stressed.

"Johnny" leads an operational commando formed by two brigades. Each brigade is formed by 2,946 men who are scattered in groups all over Boaco and Chontales.

Contras: No Arms Surrender If Gen. Ortega Stays

PA2604020290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0110 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] El Destino (Nicaragua), 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] staff agreed today not to turn over their weapons as long as Gen. Humberto Ortega remains as head of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces, top rebel leader "Commander Franklin" (Israel Galeano) said today.

"Franklin" made this statement before 600 heavily armed contras in the town of El Destino, located about 275 km north of Managua, near Honduras.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro announced today she would keep Gen. Ortega in command of the Armed Forces while the demobilization and disarmament of the contras took place, which should be over by 10 June, according to the agreements signed in Managua on 19 April.

Police, Celebrating Chamorro Supporters Clash

WA2604105390 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, April 26 (AFP)—Police firing tear gas and shooting in the air clashed with supporters of

President Violeta Chamorro just hours after she took the oath of office here and appealed for reconciliation.

An undetermined number of people were injured and arrested late Wednesday [25 April], hospital and Red Cross officials said, after riot police moved against celebrating Chamorro supporters who tried to tear down portraits of Sandinista leaders mounted on the National Palace.

The outbreak of violence underscored the difficulties facing the 60-year-old newspaper publisher, whose inauguration as president ended a decade of revolutionary rule by the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

"Nicaragua will bury its arms forever so that the sound of the cannon will never roar again," Mrs. Chamorro promised Nicaraguans who, divided into opposing political camps, jammed a baseball stadium to witness the inauguration.

Mrs. Chamorro declared a general amnesty, abolished the military draft and said she would assume the post of defense minister to personally supervise Nicaragua's demilitarization after nine years of civil war.

But she also announced that General Humberto Ortega, the brother of former president Daniel Ortega and a top FSLN leader, would remain chief of the armed forces.

That concession has angered many of the president's supporters, prompting a virtual revolt within the ruling National Opposition Union (UNO), a fractious 14-party coalition that united behind her candidacy in the February 25 general elections.

Two people who had been tapped to serve in Mrs. Chamorro's cabinet withdrew in protest. Even before Mrs. Chamorro announced Gen. Ortega's appointment, UNO's political council had warned it opposed such a move. So had Nicaraguan contra leader Israel Galeano, whose rebel forces were supposed to begin disarming Wednesday but didn't.

Mrs. Chamorro said Gen. Ortega would serve as armed forces chief only for as long as it takes for the rebels to demobilize, civilians to be disarmed and the armed forces to be reduced in size. There was no timetable, however, observers noted.

Argentina

Menem Says Missile Scrapped Over U.S. Concern

PY2604024090 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] President Carlos Menem said yesterday the project for the construction of the Condor II missile was deactivated some time ago for lack of resources. He admitted, however, that the government made that decision to avoid a confrontation with the United States and other countries.

The U.S. concern for the project was recently reiterated to Argentine officials—including President Menem—by President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman.

The Argentine Government reportedly expects that freezing this project will help get the national aeronautics industry into the U.S. market, especially with the IA-63 Pampa training plane. It has been learned that about 500 of these planes may be sold in the United States in an operation worth several million dollars, and that efforts in this regard had been made under the Raul Alfonsin administration.

This may not be the only reason for the suspension of the Condor II project. London was also pleased with the Argentine decision, because that type of missile would be a permanent threat to its defense of the Malvinas Islands.

President Menem also discussed other current issues at a radio station yesterday. Menem rejected former President Raul Alfonsin's remarks that the government is leaning toward the right by saying the concept of the Radical Civic Union is "strictly demagoguery."

Regarding the social and economic crisis, Menem said the population "is bearing the situation" because the people know the government's economic adjustment program "is not another lie." Menem admitted the percentage of poverty is "extremely high," but said that this is true not only in Argentina but in all the developing countries, "which are in the same condition as we are, or worse."

Menem To Attend Group of 15 Meeting in Malaysia

PY2504215090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1455 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] It was officiallly reported at Government House today that President Carlos Menem accepted the official invitation to attend the so-called Group of 15 meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 1-3 June 1990.

Musa Hitam [name as published], Malaysia's special envoy to the United Nations, revealed the information after meeting with President Menem at Government House this morning. Musa Hitam was accompanied by Malaysia's Roving Ambassador Jalim Hashim [name as published] and Malaysia's Ambassador to Argentina Khor Eng Hee. The meeting was also attended by Argentine Ambassador to ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] Angel Oliveri Lopez and Foreign Policy Under Secretary Carlos Ortiz de Rozas.

Armed Forces Granted 50 Percent Salary Hike

PY2504145890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1126 GMT 25 Apr 90

[All figures as received]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)—The salaries paid to Armed Forces' personnel have been increased by 50 percent as of this month. The hike for April will be paid through a supplementary payroll. This decision is the result of negotiations between Defense Minister Humberto Romero and Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez.

Considering that the salaries earned by military men have already been increased by 60 percent, the total salary increase for the sector in April, with respect to March, is 115 percent.

Following a meeting with the chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces, Defense Minister Humberto Romero said that the hike marks the beginning of "a gradual improvement of salaries, although not in real terms."

With this hike, a corporal will now earn around 650,000 australes, while a Division General will earn 3,200,000 australes.

Romero said this increase restores the historical Armed Forces salary scale, in which the highest rank earns 6 times as much as the lowest rank.

A journalist asked Romero whether the chiefs of staff are satisfied with the hike. He replied: "Of course they are. The desired restitution of salaries will obviously take time. No one expects that it will be done in one month. The restitution will depend on the successful implementation of the economic stability plan, which foresees these hikes." [passage omitted]

New Supreme Court Members Take Oath of Office

PY2604015690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1634 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (TELAM)—The new members of the Supreme Court, attorneys Rodolfo Barra, Mariano Cavagna Martinez, Ricardo Levene, Julio Nazareno, and Julio Oyhanarte took the oath of office today.

The ceremony, held in the Court Audience Hall, started shortly after 1115. Supreme Court President Enrique Petracchi administered the oath of office, after which the registry was signed, to the applause of the crowd gathered in the hall.

Republican Force Party Ofiicially Recognized

PY2304165890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0106 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Summary] Salta, 20 Apr (TELAM)—The Salta branch of the Electoral Court recognized the Republican Force Party [Partido Fuerza Republicano] as a nationwide political party. The party is led by General Antonio Domingo Bussi, Retired.

As required by law, the Republican Force Party has already registered in at least five electoral districts.

Bolivia

COB Calls Indefinite Strike for 26 April

PY2504030290 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Report by Ruben Zupino]

[Text] Good evening, friends. The national congress of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] decided to call a strike as of 0000 on 26 April. [recorded passage indistinct]

[Name indistinct], a member of the COB's executive board, has stated that the COB's national congress decided to go on an indefinite strike as of 26 April.

Government Declares Strike Illegal

PY2604012690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Report from Government House by Luz Mendoza]

[Excerpt] Good evening. The government declared illegal the general indefinite strike that the Bolivian Labor Federation called for 0000 on 26 April. The government based its decision on the rules and regulations contained in the Labor Code and other laws and resolutions currently in force.

The ministerial resolution was handed to the media a few minutes ago at the conclusion of a cabinet meeting chaired by Vice President Luis Ossi Sanjines at Government House. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Foreign Reserves Position Stablizes, Improves

PY2604011090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Apr 90 Economy Section p 1

[Report by Ribamar Oliveira from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] President Fernando Collor de Mello has been given good news: The country's foreign reserves in cash stand at about $9 billion, and, more important yet, they are growing. That figure, which has been considered a state secret, guarantees Brazil a good position from which to negotiate its foreign debt with international bankers. The initial step in those negotiations should be taken today by Economy, Finance, and Planning Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello when she announces the appointment of diplomat Jorio Dauster as special foreign debt negotiator. [passage omitted]

Government Orders Release of More Frozen Funds

PY2604022490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] People who are unemployeed or over 65 years of age will be able to withdraw part of their savings frozen by the government's economic plan. The Economy Ministry authorized the conversion of cruzados into cruzeiros for those people and others.

People over 65 years of age will be able to withdraw their investments in three installments of 25,000 cruzeiros each. This measure applies to any financial investment that was frozen by the economic plan.

Whoever may have been dismissed after 15 December will be able to withdraw up to 50,000 cruzeiros from his saving accounts if he was still unemployed by 15 March and if the frozen money was obtained from the Unemployment Compensation Fund or from the indemnity paid when the employee was dismissed.

Pregnant women may withdraw up to 60,000 cruzeiros to pay for the birth of their child. All they need is a medical certificate and the birth certificate of the child.

In the cultural area, the government released funds, in eight monthly portions, in accounts used to sponsor cultural events.

Government Releases Funds for Agricultural Sector

PY2604013090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor announced the release of 42 billion cruzeiros through the Bank of Brazil for the agricultural sector and for financing the milk tickets [preceeding word in English].

[Begin Collor recording] Through the Economy Ministry we are approving a measure releasing resources amounting to 40 billion cruzeiros for the agricultural sector. These funds are earmarked to finance the winter harvest and the marketing of the summer harvest.

I would also like to inform everyone that yesterday I ordered the Bank of Brazil to release 2.7 billion cruzeiros to finance the national milk program. As a consequence, all those who have milk tickets may rest assured that the Bank of Brazil already has the necessary funds to cover the tickets. [end recording]

Chiarelli Signs Agreement, Leaves Hospital

PY2504124090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The government released 1.950 million cruzeiros for use in the education sector. The agreement was signed today in Sao Paulo by Education Minister Carlos Chiarelli and by representatives of the Federal Savings Bank.

Under this agreement, 123,000 students will be able to enter private universities and begin to pay one year after they graduate.

After signing the agreement, the education minister was discharged from the hospital where he has been for the past two weeks, recovering from a diverticulitis operation.

Sao Paulo Inflation Rate Stands at 0.76 Percent

PY2504183690 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to a survey conducted by the Economic Research Institute Foundation [FIPE] of the Sao Paulo University, the inflation rate in the city of Sao Paulo stood at 0.76 percent during the first month of Collor's administration.

The survey was based on 20,000 prices of 274 products and services used by families who earn between two and six basic salaries.

According to FIPE coordinator (Joares Rezieri), this percentage reveals that prices have remained stable.

President Collor visited the biggest supermarket in Brasilia and found that prices have dropped 11.5 percent since 16 March, the date on which he took power. He compared the prices established by the SUNAB (Economic Research Institute Foundation) for about one hour and purchased 19 basic items.

Economy Ministry Executive Secretary Eduardo Teixeira, who accompanied the president, referred to the drop in prices.

[Begin Teixeira recording] The president paid 1,497 cruzeiros for some items. He bought a 5-kg pack of rice and a 5 kg-pack of beans. He paid 1,081.50 cruzeiros for them, that is 11.5 percent less than the list price, which is 1,222.60 cruzeiros. This shows prices have dropped compared to those on 15 March 1990. [end recording]

Teixeira said this drop in prices means that in 30 days the government has improved the purchasing power of salaries.

Moonlighting Federal Employees Names Published

PY2504132090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The OFFICIAL GAZETTE today published a list of more than 25,000 employees who are moonlighting within the federal administration. Federal Administration Secretary Joao Santana explained these employees have 30 days to justify their position, if not, they will be dismissed from the second job. [passage omitted]

Santana added further lists will be published. He said the federal government expects to save 43 million cruzeiros this year through this administrative reform. [passage omitted]

Chile

Minister on New Human Rights Commission

PY2504195890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, created yesterday by the president of the Republic, does not seek an institutional trial of the Armed Forces. He said that this commission will look for individual responsibility for human rights violations.

[Begin Rojas recording] Regarding the national defense sector, I want to tell you that this commission is in no way seeking an institutional trial of the Armed Forces. No one is putting the Armed Forces in the defendant's seat. It was specifically pointed out that it involves information regarding serious human rights violations and the responsibility of individuals that may be revealed by the work methods the commission will establish. [end recording]

Rojas made it clear the task of the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation will not be limited to state activities or the participation of uniformed people in human rights violations. He added information regarding terrorist actions against Armed Forces members will also be supplied.

The defense minister also made it clear the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation does not have an investigative character.

[Begin Rojas recording] This is not an investigative commission. It is an informative commission, which is quite different. The decree creating this commission points out that its specific functions are to receive reports, to receive statements, and—regarding the charges they receive—to request from state institutions the required information or data to confirm the truth of such charges or information. [end recording]

Rojas said that if the commission asks for information held by the Army, the Defense Ministry will place this

information at the commission's disposal, after assessing the contents of the petition.

Finally, Rojas said that yesterday he informed the Armed Forces commanders in chief about the scope of the commission. He said they thanked him for the information and that they hoped to have the opportunity to read the decree creating this commission.

Soviet Delegation Meets Acting Foreign Minister

PY2504133090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Igor Kanayev, a deputy chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that his government wants to enhance commercial relations with Chile and there is agreement with our country's authorities.

Kanayev made these remarks after meeting with acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas. Kanayev is heading a delegation made up of 11 people. He indicated his country is interested in traditional exports and imports and, specifically in Chile, in the fishing sectors.

[Begin Kanayev recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] We are interested in the fishing sector, naval construction, and the car industry. We are also interested in consumer goods and the agro-industrial sector. [end recording]

Kanayev added they are interested in different forms of cooperation with Chilean industry. He emphasized, however, that so far no direct trade relations have been achieved because, until now, trade has been conducted through third countries.

Igor Kanayev is heading a delegation of 11 representatives of production consortiums from different sectors of public and state industries. This is the first Soviet delegation to visit Chile in the past 16 years.

Navy Completes Repair of 'Thompson' Submarine

PY2504233290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0237 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Santiago, 24 Apr (EFE)—Chile is ready to build its first modern submarine, after successfully concluding the technological restoration of the submarine "Thompson," of the Chilean Navy. This information was disclosed by Patricio Peters Flores, in charge of the "recovery by diagnosis" project at the Naval Docks and Yards (ASMAR).

Flores noted that in one year ASMAR had managed to complete Chile's first attempt to repair a modern submarine, such as the "Thompson," which was launched in 1984 from German [not further specified] shipyards. Flores said this "allows the Navy to optimistically look forward to soon being able to build submarines. That capability, among other advantages, will substantially reduce the cost of submarines, which today are worth more than $180 million each."

He also explained the "recovery by diagnosis" consisted of carefully examining all the vessel's equipment to determine the wear experienced during its six years. Afterward, in the ASMAR shipyard in Talcahuano, 530 km south of Santiago, the submarine was fully repaired. It is assumed that it will be tested next July.

Colombia

Car Bomb Blows Up Police Patrol in Medellin

PA2504162990 Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr (AFP)—In a preliminary report, the Defense Ministry released information in Bogota that five people were killed—one policeman and four civilians—and four were wounded in western Medellin on Wednesday when a car bomb was driven against a patrol of the elite police corps.

The toll of dead and wounded increased during the removal of the rubble resulting from the collapse of several stores in a large business sector in Medellin, 500 km northeast of this capital. In addition, 15 vehicles were damaged.

Scenes of terror and enormous confusion could be seen at the site of the attack, which is similar to one that took place on 11 April on the freeway south of Medellin, resulting in a total of 20 killed, including eight policemen.

Francisco Zuluaga, government secretary of the Antioquia governor's office, said the attack was carried out at 0900 (1400 GMT) as an elite police patrol passed through San Juan Street,—which is an important business and residential area in Medellin.

Explosion Kills 8, Injures 25

PA2504215690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1745 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] A new terrorist act this morning shook Medellin, the capital of Antioquia. A bomb on a dump truck, with at least 200 kg of dynamite, exploded near a vehicle transporting elite forces of the National Police. The criminal action has so far left eight people dead and 35 injured, and losses of over 1 billion pesos.

At approximately 0830, two youths parked a dump truck loaded with debris in the middle of San Juan Highway, one of the main highways in the western part of the city, exactly in front of the old Rivoli Theater. They pretended to check the vehicle for slight damage and then left, saying in loud voices that they would have to leave the vehicle because it was damaged. This did not seem suspicious to anyone.

Half an hour later, a vehicle transporting more than 20 members of the police elite force passed near the dump truck. The dump truck, which, according to preliminary estimates, contained over 200 kg of dynamite camouflaged under the debris, exploded. There was chaos and confusion. Witnesses saw Dantesque scenes.

[Begin unidentified witness recording] I was outside my house when I heard an incredible, tremendous explosion. I went to see what had happened and found that a vehicle that belonged to the police elite force was completely destroyed and several policemen were laying all over the street. They were mutilated and drenched in blood. I also saw a bus passing by with a number of people screaming and coming out of the bus windows. They were drenched in blood. The shock wave filled everything with smoke. We could see nothing. We all tried to remove the people who were in the bus and the policemen. [end recording]

Only one policeman was killed; four others were injured. Most of the people who died were civilian passersby who were not in any way involved with the war. For example, the mangled body of a young female student who could only manage to protect her books remained at the site of the incident. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals.

Minutes after the explosion, a shootout was heard, but no one could explain what happened. Everyone living within at least two blocks were injured, and at least eight vehicles were completely destroyed.

While this tragedy was taking place along the San Juan Highway, the 4th Brigade flew helicopters all over the city distributing flyers offering a reward for the capture of Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

At this moment, a special security meeting is under way in Medellin, chaired Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez, to adopt special public order control measures.

Assassinations of Policemen Increasing

PA2604041790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Thirty-one policemen have been assassinated this month in Medellin, and 58 have been killed so far this year. On 11 April, a car bomb exploded on Medellin southern freeway, killing 20 persons, including eight policemen. The terrorist war to the death unleashed by the terrorists in August 1989, when the government renewed the extraditions, has caused 235 deaths to date.

Police Launch Operation Against Kidnappers

PA2504140890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Report by Jorge Alonso Sierra Valencia]

[Text] Today Medellin Police officials experienced a victory in their struggle against crime but, unfortunately, Colombian criminals claimed yet another victim during these actions: a person who had been kidnapped was released, but another was murdered by his captors.

The Medellin Metropolitan Police launched an operation starting with a raid on a house in the Calat Sans neighborhood in western Medellin, where criminals held Carlos Alberto Sierra Bedoya, 39, who was the El Diamante brick firm manager. The kidnappers murdered Sierra Bedoya in front of the police who had come to his rescue, but the police killed all five kidnappers in the ensuing clash.

The police then proceeded to raid a house in the Manrique neihborhood and rescued businessman Diego Pullido Barriento, 25. Pullido was held captive by six kidnappers, who confronted the police. In the clash three of the criminals were killed and the remaining three were captured.

According to the official report, the police were able to launch this operation due to information it had received from citizens.

UP Wants in on Constitutional Reforms Talks

PA2604005790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0135 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 24 Apr (EFE)—The leftist Patriotic Union (UP) today asked Colombian President Virgilio Barco to be admitted to the negotiations the government is holding with diverse political groups to reach an agreement that will permit the introduction of national constitutional reforms.

The UP National Directorate met today with Barco and gave him a letter noting that the exclusion of social forces in the negotiations may again be a mockery of the people. It again asked for protection for the lives of its militants.

Since it was founded in 1985, more than 1,000 UP members have been killed throughout the country.

The UP explains in its letter the assassination on 22 March of Bernardo Jaramillo, its presidential candidate, forced it to withdraw from the 27 May elections. This did not deter it, however, from its struggle for a plebiscite and from calling for a national, popular and democratic Constituent Assembly.

The UP added that a Constituent Assembly, which will represent all popular sectors, will be charged with drafting constitutional reforms. The reforms must then be submitted to a plebiscite.

A week ago, the Liberal Party, Social Conservative Party, 19 April Movement (M-19), and National Salvation Movement met to try to reach an agreement that will permit holding a national plebiscite on 27 May to approve substantial reforms to the state.

Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe stated the administration has not and does not seek to impose its

criteria on the will to effect constitutional reform. He added that the government's position is very clear and seeks to respond to the will of the people.

Also, the UP convened political parties, social forces, students, and Colombians in general who were excluded from these negotiations, to unite a proposal on the 27 May plebiscite.

Finally, the UP Directorate asked, as a contribution to peace in the country, to be able to meet with the rebel forces.

Paraguay

Uruguayan President Lacalle's May Visit Announced

PY2504152090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Apr 90 p 10

[Text] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle will visit our country on 14-15 May. An accord on the use of the Nueva Palmira duty-free port will be signed during his visit. This announcement was made by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana at Government House yesterday.

"We want to operate at the port more or less the way we are operating in Paranagua [in Brazil] but we want no dirty deals, just a deal that will benefit the Paraguayan state," he added.

He explained that the idea is to allow Paraguayan businessmen to build a 30 to 40,000-ton pier at which grain can be exported in the port area through a concession.

Febreristas Elect Party Executive Committee

PY2604033890 Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish 25 Apr 90 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] The direct elections called for by the Executive Committee of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF) have been held in 90 districts throughout the country and abroad. [passage omitted]

As result of direct elections, the following party members will henceforth hold positions on the new Executive Committee:

President: Euclides Acevedo;

First vice president: Juan G. Granada;

Second vice president: Enrique Sanchez;

Members: Raimundo Careaga, Victor Sanchez Villagra, Eliseo Cabrera, Benigno Perrotta, Nelson Rojas, Anibal Carrillo, Francisco Franco, Erasmo Torres Perez, German Marin, Federico Robledo, Anibal Sanchez, Diana Banuelos, Ricardo Estigarribia, Raul Chenu Rivarola, Fernando Ljubetich A., Adolfo Martinez T., Sergio Gomez Serrato, Desiderio Arzamendia, Antoliano Velazquez, Nicasio Vera, Victor Dure, and Julian Cubas. [passage omitted]

The PRF is the first political party to implement the system of direct elections that has been instituted by the Electoral Code recently approved in Congress. [passage omitted]

Peru

16 Terrorists Die in Clash With National Police

PY2504151090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0056 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 24 Apr (EFE) The Interior Ministry issued a communique in Lima today reporting that at least 16 terrorists died in a clash with a National Police patrol in a jungle region of Junin Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range.

The communique said the confrontation occurred on 23 April in the outskirts of Satipo, the capital of the Satipo Province, and that the rebel group comprised some 35 terrorists.

The communique added the police patrol, which belongs to [passage indistinct] dynamite sticks, ammunition, and leaflets.

It also reported the police patrol continued to search for the terrorists who after the clash fled toward the township of Villa Victoria in the same region.

The communique did not specify whether the members of the armed group belonged to the pro-Maoist Shining Path organization or to the pro-Guevara Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA]. These two groups frequently carry out terrorist activities in the Junin area.

Junin is one of the nine departments—six in the central mountain range and three in the jungle area—in which the Peruvian Government today extended the state of emergency for 60 days in view of the terrorist activities.

A congressional commission which analyzes the reasons for the violence in Peru has estimated that the number of political crimes perpetrated during the first half of April is the highest since the Shining Path terrorist organization began the armed struggle in 1980.

The commission reported approximately 300 people were murdered during the first half of April, some 1,000 have died thus far this year, and about 20,000 people in the past decade.

More Official Electoral Results Announced

PY2504160690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The National Electoral Court [JNE] released the official results of the presidential election from five departments.

The APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] obtained the highest number of votes in Cajamarca, Lambayeque, and La Libertad Departments.

The Fredemo [Democratic Front] obtained the highest number of votes in Loreto, and Change 90 obtained the highest in Puno.

JNE member Juan Chavez Molinas reported, thus far, 84 percent of the votes cast all over the country have been counted. Next week the JNE will conclude the vote count of the 8 April elections.

Today at noon the JNE released to the local press the official result from the following departments:

Cajamarca:	
APRA	33.1 percent
Fredemo	20.1 percent
United Left	7.4 percent
Socialist Left	5.9 percent
Change 90	4.1 percent
Other parties	2.2 percent
Invalid/blank	26.8 percent
Puno:	
Change 90	28.4 percent
Fredemo	16.5 percent
APRA	12.7 percent
United Left	9 percent
Socialist Left	3.2 percent
Other parties	11.4 percent
Invalid/blank	28.4 percent
Lambayeque	
APRA	37.7 percent
Fredemo	26.5 percent
Change 90	10.3 percent
Socialist Left	5.2 percent
United Left	5.1 percent
Other parties	1.4 percent
Invalid/blank	13.4 percent
Loreto	
Fredemo	45.2 percent
APRA	17.9 percent
United Left	9.2 percent
Change 90	8.7 percent
Socialist Left	2.3 percent
Other parties	1.4 percent
Invalid/blank	15 percent
La Libertad	
APRA	51.6 percent
Fredemo	17.3 percent
Change 90	8.3 percent
United Left	3.3 percent
Socialist Left	3.2 percent
Other parties	1 percent
Invalid/blank	15 percent

In its bulletin No. 03-90 the JEN reports, thus far, the votes cast at 44,249 voting stations have been already counted, that is 84 percent of the votes throughout the country. Consequently only 15.9 percent remains to be counted. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Minister Blackman Resigns in Wake of Controversy

FL2504002790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 24, CANA—Guyana's Health Minister Dr. Noel Blackman will resign on April 30, the office of the president announced on Tuesday.

The statement said that Blackman had written President Desmond Hoyte requesting that he be allowed to resign. The statement said Blackman, who proposes to go into private practice as from May 1, recalled that he had agreed to serve as a minister for a limited period after joining the Cabinet in 1986.

It said Blackman thanked Hoyte for giving him the opportunity to be of service to the government and people of Guyana and assured him of his continuing loyalty to him and to the ruling People's National Congress.

The announcement has come sharply in the wake of a controversy surrounding the minister's alleged role in ordering a team of Cuban doctors to perform an operation on an AIDS [Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome] patient. The operation was performed but, in the process, one of the doctors stuck his finger with a surgical needle and it is now suspected that he might have

become a carrier of the HIV [Human Immuno Deficiency Virus] virus. He has since returned to Cuba where all AIDS victims are isolated at a special hospital.

"In accepting his resignation, the president thanked Dr. Blackman for his sterling services to the government and the nation and extended his best wishes to him for the future," the statement said.

Suriname

Arson Suspects Arrested in Economic Ministry Fire

FL1704150790 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] In Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has burned to the ground and all administrative records have been destroyed in the flames. The police in Paramaribo suspect arson and have arrested two ministerial guards.

Only a few weeks ago, an attempt was made to burn down the ministry but that earlier attempt failed.

Japanese, South Korean Firms Grant Credit Lines

FL1904183190 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Japanese firm, [name indistinct], has granted a [word indistinct] credit line in the amount of 11 million U.S. dollars to Suriname. Also, the Import-Export Bank of South Korea has granted a three million U.S. dollar credit line to our country. These credits to Suriname are the result of talks which Finance Minister Soebhas Mungra held earlier this month in Japan and South Korea.

A Finance Ministry spokesperson told our newsroom this morning that with the credit granted by Japan, motor vehicles will be imported. Part of the South Korean credit will be invested in [words indistinct], while the other part will be used for the purchase of buses for public transport.

Minister Mungra will submit proposals to the Council of Ministers for the allocation of the 14 million U.S. dollars.